

- To the extent feasible and compatible with over-all planning policies and objectives, each school district's location and land use compatibility guidelines or preferences shall be incorporated into the city's land use planning and public facility design programs.

## **Solid Waste and Community Sanitation**

**E-30. OBJECTIVE:** Provide adequate solid waste facilities and services for the collection, transfer, recycling, and disposal of refuse.

**E-30-a. Policy:** Support programs and new techniques of solid waste disposal such as recycling, composting, and waste separation, to reduce the volume and toxicity of solid wastes that must be sent to landfill facilities.

**E-30-b. Policy:** Pursue programs to maintain conformance with AB 939, the Solid Waste Management Act of 1989, in order to comply with mandated diversion goals.

**E-30-c. Policy:** Expand community sanitation programs to provide neighborhood cleanup and nuisance abatement services throughout the metropolitan area including both incorporated and unincorporated areas.

**E-30-d. Policy:** Locate any private or public waste disposal facilities or transfer stations in a manner that waste transportation and processing is not detrimental to the public health, safety, welfare, and aesthetic well-being of the surrounding community.

**E-30-e. Policy:** Pursue the implementation of measures to eliminate illegal tire dumping.

## **F. OPEN SPACE/RECREATION ELEMENT**

### **Challenges**

"Open space" is one of the required elements for general plans under State Planning Law (California Government Code Section 65560). The general plan is required to inventory open space and recreational opportunities, and to address community needs for these activities and facilities. This element of the general plan update addresses open space for recreational activities (agricultural, mineral resource, and habitat open space is dealt with in the Resource Conservation Element; open space set-aside due to hazards is dealt with in the Safety Element; and landscaped open space used for buffer zones and streetscape enhancement is dealt with in the Urban Form Element).

Recreational amenities and attractive open spaces are crucial for maintaining an urban area's image and desirability, on a citywide scale as well as at a neighborhood level. The Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area is a major urban center with a diverse population that includes a high proportion

of children. Therefore, numerous and varied forms of recreation are required to adequately serve this population. A wide range of recreational facilities and activities needs to be physically and financially accessible to people throughout the metropolitan area.

Aside from city facilities and programs, the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area offers the following recreational opportunities:

- Federal, state, county, and special district outdoor recreation areas.
- School playgrounds.
- Nonprofit and cultural organizations (e.g., Girls and Boys Clubs, Fresno Metropolitan Museum).
- Special districts (e.g., Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District, Calwa Park and Recreation District, Clovis Memorial District).
- Commercial recreation (two water parks and other amusement parks).
- On-site recreational open space that serves residential developments (provided for by General Plan Urban Form Element/Land Use policies and the Zoning Ordinance).

### **Direction**

This Open Space/Recreation Element provides general plan-level direction for the city on two main topic areas:

1. **Master Parks Plan.** This is the portion of the general plan which deals with city-owned, city-operated, and city-sponsored park facilities and recreation programs. The provision of neighborhood and community parks is guided and ensured by a specific planning and funding process directed toward meeting community needs by appropriate park siting and recreational programming. The Master Parks Plan defines various classes of park space and sets standards for the amount of park acreage that should be provided per thousand population.

2. **San Joaquin River Parkway Plan.** These general plan policies are intended to provide city support for the realization of a “super-regional” park in the riverbottom, created under the auspices of the San Joaquin River Conservancy with the cooperation of private and public agency stakeholders on both the Fresno and Madera County sides of the river.

### **Relationship to General Plan Goals**

Several of the 2025 General Plan Goals refer to the importance of open spaces and recreational opportunities for Fresno:

- Goal 1: Enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Fresno and plan for the projected population within the moderately expanded Fresno urban boundary in a manner which will respect physical, environmental, fiscal, economic, and social issues.
- Goal 2: Pursue coordinated regional planning with Fresno and Madera Counties and the City of Clovis.

- Goal 3: Preserve and revitalize neighborhoods, the downtown, and historic resources.
- Goal 7: Manage growth to balance Fresno's urban form while providing an adequate public service delivery system which is fairly and equitably financed.
- Goal 10: Provide quality open space, park and recreation facilities and programs to support the projected population.
- Goal 11: Protect, preserve, and enhance significant biological, archaeological, and paleontological resources and critical natural resources including, but not limited to, air, water, agricultural soils, mineral, plant, and wildlife resources.
- Goal 12: Develop urban design strategies to improve Fresno's visual image and enhance its form and function.
- Goal 13: Plan for a healthy business and diversified employment environment, and provide adequate timely services to ensure that Fresno is competitive in the marketplace.
- Goal 14: Protect and improve public health and safety.

### **Master Parks Plan**

**F-1. OBJECTIVE:** This general plan constitutes an update of the Master Parks Plan and will be used as a programmatic framework by the City of Fresno in order to ensure sufficient park facilities and to maintain a variety of meaningful and balanced recreational programs for residents for the upcoming 20-plus year planning horizon. This Master Parks Plan incorporates objectives, policies, open space land use designations, and trail alignments adopted in the land use and transportation topics of this general plan and in community and specific plans, ordinances, and resolutions of the City of Fresno.

**F-1-a. Policy:** The Master Parks Plan (and any subsequent implementation plan for parks and recreation) should have the following characteristics:

- it should meet the needs of the people of Fresno and make recreation more accessible to the public.
- it will be consistent with, and integrated into, regional, community, and specific plans.
- it should be simple to apply and attainable in the planning period with existing or projected funds.
- it should ensure that the city's parks and recreation is coordinated with other recreational opportunities, other recreation providers, and other public services (such as education and transportation).
- it should be amenable to revision as circumstances change.

**F-1-b. Policy:** Ensure that park and recreation planning is a continuous process, with a full review and evaluation of this master plan at least every ten years in order to consider changing priorities and conditions applicable to park acquisition, development, and operation.

- F-1-c. Policy:** There will continue to be meaningful opportunities for citizen participation in the planning and development of park facilities and in creation of social, cultural, and recreational activities in the community.
- F-1-d. Policy:** Provide for the continuing development of a public system to meet the community's needs for both active and passive recreation with an adequate supply of recreational space, an appropriate mix of park types, and an equitable distribution of these facilities.
- F-1-e. Policy:** Public park types are classified as follows and are to be developed according to the standards specified:

**Mini-Parks ("Pocket Parks").** Small parks, generally less than two acres, located near higher-density development. These parks fill a void when larger parks are not feasible and when adequate open space and recreational opportunities within nearby residential development projects are not provided. As a general rule, these small parks are best suited to providing landscaped, shaded areas for nonprogrammed passive enjoyment. However, flexibility should be allowed in planning mini-park facilities, to meet specialized and changing needs of neighborhoods (for instance, predominantly senior citizen neighborhoods may desire meeting places or gardening areas; other neighborhoods may need tot lots, or surfaced courts for teenagers to play ball). While mini-parks may serve smaller neighborhoods, their size makes them inefficient and more costly to maintain (per person served). While they provide some open space in urban areas, mini-parks cannot replace the larger neighborhood parks in providing a wide range of recreation activities.

**Neighborhood Parks.** Semi-active parks of five to ten acres, designed to serve residents living within a one mile radius of the site, or to serve between 10,000 and 15,000 residents. In addition to irrigated landscaping, typical improvements for neighborhood parks include softball/soccer fields, lighted tennis courts, lighted multi-purpose courts, tot lots, picnic areas, restrooms, equipment checkout rooms, and parking lots. Whenever possible, neighborhood parks are to be located adjacent to elementary schools, to facilitate cooperative arrangements. When sited next to schools, a minimum size of five acres is indicated for neighborhood parks. When not adjacent to school sites, neighborhood parks are developed as a "stand alone" park: a minimum site size of 7.5 acres is indicated, and "stand alone" parks should also include a multi-purpose room approximately 2,000 square feet in size.

**Community Parks.** These parks are ideally twenty acres in size. They are intended to serve residents living within a two to four mile radius, or to serve a population of between 50,000 and 80,000 residents. Community parks may have lighted sport fields and specialized equipment not found in neighborhood parks. The community park is the nucleus of the park system, where members of the community can congregate for

area-wide functions or programs. At the heart of the park is the community center building of 25,000 to 30,000 square feet, which may provide at least the following facilities and services:

- gymnasium (with showers and lockers).
- multi-purpose room.
- meeting rooms.
- senior activity center.
- administrative offices.
- snack bar and kitchen facilities.

**Regional Parks.** These parks are generally 100 or more acres in extent. They are developed to serve residents living within each quadrant of the city. This type of park serves a population of approximately 100,000 residents with active and passive recreational opportunities. In addition to facilities for various outdoor sports, regional park improvements may include picnic shelters, hiking trails, lakes, streams, public gardens, and other amenities not normally located in an urban setting. These parks are the only city recreational sites large enough to set aside wildlife habitat and offer nonprogrammed, nature-oriented recreational opportunities.

**The San Joaquin River Parkway.** This area is being developed into a "super-regional" park, serving not only the City, but residents of Fresno and Madera counties. Its unique recreational opportunities and ecological features also draw visitors from throughout the state. The parkway plan, discussed in detail in the Open Space/Recreation Element, encompasses developed recreational sites, interpretive and educational sites, and natural habitat areas. Intercalated with the public portions of the parkway is private land used for recreation, agriculture, surface mining (and processing of extracted minerals), and other approved existing uses.

**School Grounds/Playfields.** School sites comprise a large inventory of recreational open space areas which can provide recreational space for organized activities such as soccer, youth baseball, tennis, and other exercise, and gym uses. The playfield program operates through joint use agreements between the city and school districts which own the sites. The program currently offers programmed and non-programmed activities, primarily serving elementary school-aged children living within a one-half mile radius of the school.

**Ponding Basins.** Whenever feasible, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) provides opportunities for recreational open space through public use of storm drainage/groundwater recharge basins (see Table 7). Some basins are developed as park sites with play equipment; others have play fields, and still others are maintained as open turf areas.

**F-1-f. Policy:** The City of Fresno will continue to pursue implementation of an open space standard of 3.0 acres of public park land for every 1,000 persons residing in the city's planning area and will ensure the development of sufficient park land in areas designated for higher density. This park acreage standard includes the following components:

Neighborhood Parks	0.75 acres/1,000
Community Parks	0.25 acres/1,000
<u>Regional Parks</u>	<u>2.00 acres/1,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.00 acres/1,000</b>

**F-1-g. Policy:** The City will achieve its park space acreage standards by using the following matrix for allocating park space when land use plans are formulated:

PARK TYPE	SIZE RANGE (ACREAGE)	POPULATION SERVED	SERVICE AREA RADIUS
Schoolground/ playfield	1 - 2.5	3,000 - 5,000	¼ to ½ mile
Neighborhood	5 - 10	10,000 - 15,000	½ to 1 mile
Community	15 - 20	50,000 - 80,000	2 to 4 miles
Regional	100 +	100,000	30 minute drive

**F-1-h. Policy:** When land use plans are formulated and analyzed, recreational open space acreage will be inventoried separately from open space devoted to agricultural and aesthetic (e.g., landscape buffering) purposes.

**F-1-i. Policy:** Park sites shown on the land use map of this General Plan Update/Master Parks Plan shall serve as an overlay for community and specific plan land use maps. Additional parks and open space may be depicted as needed and appropriate in community and specific plans (e.g., in a specific plan or redevelopment plan), and in the San Joaquin River Parkway area. Additional park sites will be determined during preparation of required community plan and/or specific plan documents for the North Growth Area and Southeast Growth Area as depicted on the 2025 General Plan Update.

**F-1-j. Policy:** Locations for future park sites as shown on Exhibit 4 are schematic to the extent that park sites may be relocated as necessity and opportunity dictate; a park may be located on any suitable land in the general vicinity of the sites depicted. However, the plan designation and zoning of potential park sites must be made consistent with adopted land use plans by means of plan amendment and/or rezoning application. For those park sites not yet acquired by the city, the underlying land uses shown on Table 4 shall be applied.

**F-2. OBJECTIVE:** Ensure that adequate land, in appropriate locations, is designated and acquired for park and recreation uses prior to urban development.

**F-2-a. Policy:** Utilize the following priorities and guidelines in acquiring and developing parks and recreation facilities. These priorities and guidelines are intended to be used in the preparation of the city's annual capital improvement program. Scheduling of park projects may be influenced by changing financial conditions and limitations of particular funding sources. The priority list will be reevaluated at least every three years. Priorities may also be reorganized in consideration of community needs and the long-range financial ability of the city.

- Acquire and develop neighborhood park space in existing developed neighborhoods that are deficient of such space.
- Complete recreation facilities in existing neighborhoods.
- Improve existing neighborhood parks throughout the urban area.
- Acquisition and development of neighborhood parks in new growth areas shall continue to be funded by development fees, such as Urban Growth Management (UGM) program fees. When 95 percent of the target funding has been collected in a UGM park service area, all designated parks in that service area shall be built within two years, unless precluded by development restrictions.
- Recognize community parks as a special need in areas that lack these facilities and explore all potential sources of revenue (including the addition of community park funding to the Urban Growth Management program) to secure appropriate sites and develop these recreational facilities.
- Pursue the development of regional parks (combining both passive and active recreation uses) in southwest Fresno.
- Cooperate with Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District and Fresno County to develop a regional park to serve the southeastern portion of the city.
- Develop new special purpose recreation facilities as needed.

**F-2-b. Policy:** The city will ensure that the Parks and Planning and Development Departments coordinate their review and approval of all development entitlements (i.e., site plans, conditional use permits, and subdivisions) in order to implement open space standards.

- The city will continue to require the provision of adequate recreational open space and facilities (e.g., easements or rights-of-way) as appropriate through mandatory dedication of land, requirements for improvements to land, and/or development fees, as a condition of approval or issuance of building permits for subdivisions and entitlements.
- When a site designated for a park is part of a subdivision map, the city may require the subdivider to provide for the park in the project's development plans (consistent with state law and city policies, standards, and specifications for that type of park).
- Where feasible and warranted, open space easements may be used to secure appropriate public use of sensitive areas with scenic or recreation values, and buffering space for sensitive areas.
- Wherever feasible, the city will encourage appropriate open space areas in private projects, in the form of trails, enhanced landscaped setbacks, parks, and water features (when the latter are developed as combined recharge and/or storm water runoff facilities).
- Where feasible and warranted, the City of Fresno will encourage the renewal of existing public and private spaces (such as rehabilitated landfills, parking lots, obsolete industrial buildings, surplus schools, etc.) for parks and recreation purposes, and will evaluate other underutilized parcels (such as abandoned railroad rights-of-way) for potential mini-park sites or landscaped public areas.
- Explore fee reductions/waivers and other permit processing incentives for development projects that allocate one percent or more of their project cost for recreational amenities on-site or in the vicinity of the project.
- Explore a bonus development entitlement program in which development incentives (i.e., bonus densities, bonus floor area square footage) would be provided for contributions to public recreational facilities on-site or in the vicinity of the development project.

**F-2-c. Policy:** The city will negotiate with Caltrans, other public agencies, and private property owners to develop remnant parcels along freeway corridors for appropriate recreational uses.

**F-3. OBJECTIVE:** The city will make every effort to ensure that park and recreational facilities make the most efficient use of land; that they are designed and managed to provide for convenience, health, safety, and pleasure of the intended users; and that they represent positive examples of design and energy conservation.

**F-3-a. Policy:** The location of park and recreation sites should be central and accessible to the population served, while preserving the integrity of the surrounding neighborhood.



**F-3-b. Policy:** Public open space should be linked to major activity centers through a series of landscaped linear walkways and bikeways that enhance and encourage pedestrian use.

**F-3-c. Policy:** Designated park and recreation sites should be protected from intrusive or incompatible uses.

**F-3-d. Policy:** In general, the city should not consider acquisition of park sites less than two acres in size for active recreational uses.

**F-3-e. Policy:** Ensure that city parks maximize visual and recreational value, and enhance accessibility for the public and for supervision of park sites.

**F-3-f. Policy:** Shade, water, comfort facilities, and art should be prominent design elements of current and future recreation facilities.

- Parks should be augmented by street trees and landscaped median strips in arterial roads.
- Public parks should include and promote points of attraction, which may include artwork, exhibit areas, and kiosks, representing diversified interests and themes.
- Promote the design of outdoor environments that attract people for activities through the creative use of landscape features, street furniture, signage, and lighting.
- Maintain standards under which the sale of food in parks may be allowed, including appropriate sites and guidelines for concessionaire food service.

**F-3-g. Policy:** Promote safety, attractiveness, and compatibility between parks and adjacent residential areas through proper design, adequate maintenance, and supervision to enforce park regulations.

- Provide adequate staffing during hours that the city's neighborhood, community, and regional parks are open; and consider after-hours supervision of city parks with measures that may include staffed remote monitoring equipment, on-site security personnel, and/or routine law enforcement patrols.
- Require the installation of security lighting for parking, points of access, and building areas at all public recreation and park sites.
- Locate noisy park facilities and those which require intensive night lighting (such as outdoor basketball courts) at an appropriate distance from adjacent residential uses with visual barriers to stop glare and protect privacy.

**F-4. OBJECTIVE:** The city will continue to provide recreational and community services consistent with community needs and financial capabilities.

- F-4-a. Policy:** The City of Fresno will strive to maintain a unified park and recreation program, citywide in scope, to address the recreation needs of its residents, regardless of age, sex, income, cultural background, or disability.
- F-4-b. Policy:** The city will strengthen community services, and locate and design new facilities to support both the recreation program and the community service missions of the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department.
- F-4-c. Policy:** "Basic" services for the operation of recreation facilities and for the provision of a broad program of activities and events should be primarily supported by the general fund.
- F-4-d. Policy:** The emphasis of city recreation programs will continue to be at the community/neighborhood level so that the services provided reflect the interests, needs, and socio-economic makeup of the population being served.
- F-4-e. Policy:** "Non-basic" recreation and community services may also be offered to the community. These would include:
- services which use consumable materials and supplies.
  - services that require a facility with high capital, operating, or maintenance costs.
  - services that require specialized instruction, materials, or equipment at additional costs.
  - services that have a user group which can be reasonably expected to have the capability of supporting the direct costs of the program through their own resources.
  - public property that is used for private economic gain.
- F-4-f. Policy:** The direct cost of "non-basic" services that fall into one or more of the categories listed shall be supported from user fees, grants, in-kind services, volunteers, and other non-general fund resources.
- F-5. OBJECTIVE:** The city will continue to coordinate with other agencies and organizations providing recreation facilities and services.
- F-5-a. Policy:** The city will coordinate the planning, acquisition, and development of recreational facilities in order to achieve the greatest public benefit from multiple use at the least cost.
- F-5-b. Policy:** Where a county-wide recreation need is demonstrated in an area adjacent to the city, cooperative programs should be encouraged on a cost-sharing basis. Joint Powers Agreements between agencies may be developed to provide for the acquisition, development, and/or operation of parks and/or recreational programs in this context.

**F-5-c. Policy:** Where feasible, school sites should be used for city recreation programs in order to provide a wider range of recreation programs and maximize the efficient use, maintenance, and supervision of public facilities. The city should continue to enter joint use agreements with school districts in the metropolitan area to expand recreational playfield programs.

**F-5-d. Policy:** The city should continue to obtain joint use agreements, where feasible, for use of Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD) storm water drainage facilities in order to augment the amount of open space for recreation (see Table 7). Open space and recreational uses for storm drainage basins will be considered subordinate to runoff control and water resource management uses of basins. Proposals to use ponding basins (or parts of ponding basins) for recreation shall be reviewed by the city's Department of Public Utilities for input regarding the loss of capacity for groundwater recharge. Competing interests for park use and groundwater recharge use shall be presented to the city council and a recommendation forwarded to the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District.

**F-5-e. Policy:** In order to maximize the area's supply of recreation activities and facilities, the city should explore cooperative agreements with the recreational sites and programs of non-profit organizations such as athletic leagues, churches, parochial and private schools, the Calwa Park District, the Clovis Memorial District, and other public agencies.

**F-5-f. Policy:** The city should coordinate with private interests such as commercial, industrial, and residential real estate developers to meet community needs while minimizing the cost of providing park and recreation facilities.

**F-5-g. Policy:** The city will continue to provide staff assistance, support, and information to the general public to facilitate the use of city recreation programs and actively support individuals and groups providing self-sponsored programs and services.

**F-6. OBJECTIVE:** The city will identify innovative approaches to programs, facilities, financing, and management of the parks and recreation system.

**F-6-a. Policy:** Seek revenue sources to supplement general fund support for basic park maintenance and basic recreational services.

- Aggressively seek state, federal, and local grants to improve city recreation services, and support the enactment of state and federal legislation that would establish or expand park and recreation acquisition and development funds.
- Actively seek individual, private, and corporate support for basic park maintenance and recreational services.